Caring for Natural Environments:

A Biodiversity Action Plan for Saskatchewan's Future
2004-2009

2004-06 Progress Report

Government of Saskatchewan

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List of Agency Acronyms:

CFIA - Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CYR - Saskatchewan Culture, Youth and Recreation
FNMR - First Nations and Métis Relations
FSIN - Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
GR - Saskatchewan Government Relations
HT - Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation
PSC - Saskatchewan Public Service Commission
SAF - Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food
SE - Saskatchewan Environment
SH - Saskatchewan Health
SIR - Saskatchewan Industry and Resources
SNA - Saskatchewan Northern Affairs
SWA - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
SWF - Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
PCAP - Prairie Conservation Action Plan

Minister's Message

We in Saskatchewan are among the most fortunate in the world. Our province's rich diversity of landscapes and watersheds supports a similarly rich and diverse variety of life. Biodiversity, short for biological diversity, reflects the fact that all living things, including us, rely on each other and a healthy environment for survival. The economic value of biodiversity is amply demonstrated in Saskatchewan, where biodiversity-related economic activities such as agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing and tourism play a large role in our economy.

In 2002 the province released *Caring for Natural Environments: A Biodiversity Action Plan for Saskatchewan's Future 2004-2009*. In it we talked about shared responsibility, effective public participation, ecosystem-based management, balanced values, knowledge-based decisions and that government would take the lead in conserving our biodiversity.

The Biodiversity Action Plan supports the principles and initiatives of the soon to be released, wider-reaching Green Strategy. It speaks to the actions that we, as the stewards of our environment, can take to ensure our biological resources can be used in a wise and sustainable manner that will support current and future generations.

This first report on activities being carried out by government during the first two years of implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan demonstrates that there are many things we can do to preserve and protect biodiversity.

By working together we can accomplish this goal.

John T. Nilson, Q.C.
Minister of Saskatchewan Environment

Executive Summary

The Government of Saskatchewan developed a Biodiversity Action Plan intended to guide the efforts of all sectors over a five-year period, through to 2009. The Plan focuses primarily on government actions aimed at improving policies, programs, planning, management systems and access to information in support of biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of resources by all sectors. This approach means making decisions based on an ecosystem perspective that integrates social and economic needs to develop resources with the need to protect the integrity of the environment.

This report tracks the progress made by government through the first two years of implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan. For each action, provincial government departments and Crown corporations were invited to submit information on initiatives undertaken during fiscal years 2004-05 and 2005-06 that contribute to the Plan's goals and objectives. The body of the report summarizes some of the key areas of progress that contribute to biodiversity conservation and a green and prosperous economy. The detailed submissions provided by participating departments and Crown corporations are listed in Appendix 1.

The Action Plan's five goals are:

Goal One: **Conservation and Sustainable Use** -*To conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner.*

Goal Two: **Ecosystem-based Management** -*To improve our understanding of ecosystems and increase our resource management capacity.*

Goal Three: **Education and Awareness** -*To promote an understanding of the need to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner.*

Goal Four: **Incentives and Legislation** -*To develop a suite of incentives and legislation supporting the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of biological resources.*

Goal Five: **Inter-jurisdictional Cooperation** -*To cooperate with other jurisdictions (international, federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations as well as Métis people) having policy responsibility and/or program interests to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner.*

Introduction

In some cases the initiatives carried out by agencies exactly correspond to the action as written in the Biodiversity Action Plan. In other cases the initiative is less directly related to the action but is nonetheless important for achieving the overall goals and objectives of the Plan.

The people of Saskatchewan are the stewards of an environment that encompasses an extraordinary range of unique features and ecosystems. This diversity of living things and the ecosystems of which they are a part is termed "biodiversity". A key concept of biodiversity is that every living thing, including people, has a connection to every other living thing and its environment. A healthy environment is considered the key component of the foundation of a green and prosperous economy. The benefits of conserving biodiversity are many. No life, including our own, would exist without the goods and services provided by biological resources. Biological diversity is essential for human food, clean water, shelter, health, work, recreation and culture. This is particularly true in Saskatchewan where agriculture and other biodiversity-related economic activities, including forestry, fishing, hunting and tourism play a large role in the economy.

Saskatchewan residents have long cared about biodiversity, although they may not have called it that. They care because of the way in which it touches their lives and affects their livelihoods in very direct and personal ways. Citizens instinctively appreciate the aesthetic, recreational, spiritual and cultural values of biodiversity as represented by their support for special places and species at risk. They also understand how biological resources meet our basic needs for food, shelter and other products, such as lumber and create employment for people who work in these sectors. Complementing the work already undertaken through the Biodiversity Action Plan, Saskatchewan is also participating with federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions to develop a strategic, outcomes-based framework to manage biodiversity issues across the country in a cohesive, publicly accessible and supported manner.

Maintaining the province's biodiversity for now and into the future takes planning, cooperation and commitment from the public, special interest groups and the government. Biodiversity conservation is an ongoing process that will continue to evolve and grow, as our resource needs and ecological understanding increase. As stewards of biodiversity, the best way to define this commitment to conservation was to develop a plan with very definite goals.

Most of the actions in the Biodiversity Action Plan, many of which are already underway, are designed to have limited economic impact on individuals and industry. Implementation of the plan will largely be met within existing budgets and within the context of overall provincial spending priorities. Agencies are to ensure that actions they are responsible for are accounted for within their strategic plans. Progress on achieving the Biodiversity Action Plan's goals and objectives is coordinated and monitored through a committee on the environment, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Saskatchewan Environment.

Highlights of Progress on Key Actions

Goal One: Conservation and Sustainable Use

To conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner

- Government is taking a stewardship approach to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. For example, many departments and Crowns, such as Saskatchewan Environment (SE), Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) and SaskPower, are active partners in the Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP), a Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association led partnership among 27 government agencies and non-government conservation organizations. The PCAP is based on the philosophy of shared responsibility and stewardship and focuses on knowledge sharing, education and assisting land stewards to implement beneficial rangeland management.
- Shared responsibility and stewardship includes involving First Nations and Métis people and integrating Aboriginal traditional knowledge with science in the sustainable management of natural resources.
- SE engages First Nations in ongoing discussions focusing on traditional hunting and safety issues. SE also provides interpreter training to band cultural staff working in Saskatchewan's Provincial Parks.
- Consultations have been held with First Nations and others during the development of the province's Green Strategy.
- The Forest Planning Manual will have submission requirements and process standards for forest management plans that define the requirements for Aboriginal involvement.
- Department of Highways and Transportation (DHT) has developed a plan to optimize and limit the use of road salt de-icer to reduce adverse affects on vegetation and fish in waterbodies adjacent to highways. DHT also designs, constructs and monitors enhanced culverts and stream crossings to improve fish passage and fish habitat and allow minor navigation.
- SaskPower and SaskEnergy have both developed vegetation management policies that protect surface waters and adjacent native vegetation with buffer zones that exceed current regulatory requirements.

- Ecosystem risk assessment helps to determine the threats to diversity and sustainability so that appropriate ecosystem-based management can be implemented. SE is applying this approach to enhance its knowledge about the distribution and abundance of species at risk and their ecological relationships. SE is also examining the feasibility and effectiveness of different spatial models that are currently being used to predict the occurrence of species at risk and threatened plant communities. An approach to predictive species/habitat modeling and a land use/conservation decision support system used by The Nature Conservancy in the United States looks promising. A network of sample plots has been established across the provincial forest and predictive forest ecosite mapping may also be used to define and assess threatened plant communities.
- The other area in which risk assessment has begun, both on a national and a provincial level, is invasive species management. Next to habitat loss, invasive species are considered to be the most serious threat to biodiversity. SE and SAF feel it is important to develop an approach that will evaluate the potential risk of introduction, assess preventative measures and determine what the environmental and economic loss could be if we fail to prevent introduction.
- SE has started work on the development of a new Provincial Fisheries Management Strategy. The strategy will guide efforts to manage the province's fisheries resource in order to maintain traditional and cultural benefits while ensuring sustainable economic benefits.
- SE, in cooperation with other federal and provincial agencies, lead development of a National Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Control Strategy to address the impact of CWD on wildlife. In 2004, the Canadian Ministers Responsible for Forests, Wildlife, Endangered Species and Fisheries and Aquaculture mandated the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee (CWDC) to develop a national CWD Control Strategy. CWDC approved a governance model that involves an Interagency Oversight Committee (IOC), Technical Working Group (TWG), Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and a Stakeholder Consultative Committee (SCC). The TWG, comprised of federal/provincial/territorial representatives from the agriculture, environment and health sectors developed a draft CWD Control Strategy policy framework and detailed action plans.
- The National Chronic Wasting Disease Control Strategy was approved by the Ministers Council in October 2005.
- SE is developing the Provincial Parks Legacy Framework to shape the future of the provincial parks system and to ensure the parks' legacy for generations to come.

Goal Two: Ecosystem-based Management

To improve our understanding of ecosystems and increase our resource management capacity

- Understanding ecosystems and our affect on them requires that we monitor the changes that occur as a result of our activities and resource use, analyse the current data and attempt to predict or model the expected future outcome. SE's Integrated Monitoring Unit takes a "big picture" view of impacts on the environment. Looking at the potential impact of climate change on the environment is one example of how SE is trying to further its understanding of ecosystem response by developing indicators of change and modelling vegetation change over time, based on standard climate change scenarios. In partnership with Canadian Forest Service, a new model for assessing the carbon budget in forests has been applied to help facilitate decisions around carbon sequestration.
- Management of our source water also depends on having the right information on which to base decisions. Together, SE and Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) continue to carry out water quality sampling at 23 primary sites around the province and have recently added three new sampling areas on the Churchill, Beaver and Assiniboine Rivers. At the policy level, SE and SWA are updating the Provincial Surface Water Quality Objectives to reflect current science and knowledge. In partnership with Manitoba, the province is also updating the Prairie Provinces Water Board site-specific water quality objectives at border stations and SWA is undertaking directed studies on priority watersheds within Saskatchewan to build the foundation for setting site-specific water quality objectives. SWA has also produced a framework for the first provincial state of the watershed report and completed three watershed/aquifer plans.
- Another way to increase resource management capacity is to use environmental assessment in a more proactive, strategic way. For example, a multi-agency Regional Environmental Study, in support of the new land use strategy for the Great Sand Hills, was initiated to help guide future development and identify emerging issues of either an environmental or economic nature. The study is now into its second year.
- To truly achieve ecosystem-based management, environmental considerations must be incorporated into the strategic planning of all Crown corporations and departments. For example:
  - DHT environmental staffing was increased to advise and educate department staff on best management practices for construction, monitoring projects for regulatory compliance and for fostering environmental sustainability; SaskPower and SaskEnergy's business plans each contain strategic objectives in support of "Promoting Environmental Stewardship" and "Community and Environmental Responsibility", respectively.

- Saskatchewan Northern Affairs (SNA) addressed environmental considerations in several key actions in their Strategic Plan including leading development and implementation, with partner departments/agencies, of a provincial strategy to negotiate appropriate Canada-Saskatchewan response(s) around clean-up and remediation of abandoned uranium mine sites.
- Saskatchewan Industry and Resources (SIR), in cooperation with SE and SNA through the Institutional Control Working Group, has received approval for the Institutional Control Policy that allows for the return of former mine and mill sites located on Crown land to provincial control following decommissioning, reclamation and a period of transition monitoring. By creating The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Act the government will establish the Institutional Control Registry to ensure long-term records and any required monitoring and maintenance will be managed.
- SE has put in place an Environmental Management System (EMS) to provide a framework for managing the environmental impacts of activities carried out or regulated under its forest ecosystems program. This system has achieved certification under the internationally recognized ISO 14001 standard.
- SE continues to lead, on behalf of government, development of a Green Strategy to protect the environment while growing the provincial economy.

Goal Three: Education and Awareness

To promote an understanding of the need to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner

- Education and awareness are the keys to understanding. Various departments and Crowns are directly or indirectly involved in education activities that promote an understanding of the environment and the impact of our use of the environment. SaskPower delivers a Grade 5 program through the Shand Greenhouse called "Trees and Kids" and funds a Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) program that, since April 2005, has taught over 7,600 children about wetland ecosystems.
- SWA developed Native Prairie Curriculum Materials Units to supplement the Grade 1 & 2 Core Science Curricula.
- All of the Prairie Conservation Action Plan partners continued to actively support the PCAP's "Owls and Cows and Eco-Extravaganza" tours which provide the opportunity for hands-on learning about prairie biodiversity to thousands of Saskatchewan school children. The PCAP also participates in an initiative to educate schoolteachers about prairie conservation and the important and positive role the ranching community plays through the "Ag in the Classroom" program.
- SE provides funding to the Saskatchewan Forestry Association's "Focus on Forests" program to deliver biodiversity messages in the K to 12 curricula and to teachers. At the post-secondary level, SE regularly works with Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences (SIAST) and other environmental programs and, when requested, contributes to curriculum development. For example, SE's Forest Service Branch participated in developing core curriculum subjects for Canadian Universities to be accredited by the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board. In a reciprocal manner, both provincial universities have offered to contribute their expertise and knowledge by serving on a new Scientific Advisory Committee for the Regional Environmental Study for the Great Sand Hills.
- Federal environmental farm planning funds assist agencies such as the SWA, SAF and SE to deliver training that focuses on beneficial management practices including ecosystem/range health assessment to land owners and land stewards. These grassroots "green codes of practice" contribute towards conserving biodiversity and ensuring resource sustainability.

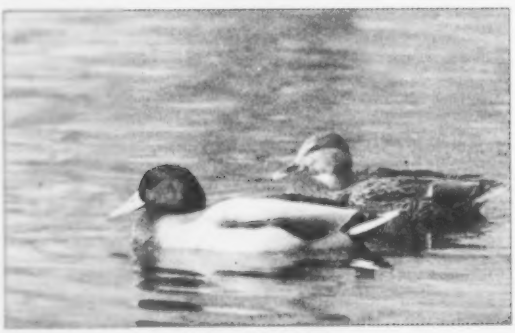
Goal Four:
Incentives and Legislation

To develop a suite of incentives and legislation supporting the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of biological resources

- Most people want to do what's good for the environment and they also want to do what is good for their family's economic and social well-being. Sometimes it is necessary to offer support for people to do the "right thing" for one cause in order for them to avoid doing the "wrong thing" for another cause. Incentives are exactly this. Incentives can take the form of training, funding to carry out changes in the way business is conducted or a variety of other economic instruments.
- Environmental farm planning is an example of a program offering incentives that support conserving biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources. The incentives for farmers and ranchers to improve their on-farm practices include partial funding to implement beneficial changes that may result in a related increase in their profit margin. Implementing beneficial management practices, especially those related to integrated pest management or water protection, can also help to improve human health. The Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards for Saskatchewan Inc. (PCAB), SWA, SAF and SE have been actively helping Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to adapt the Environmental Farm Planning (EFP) program to Saskatchewan's needs and issues. Some of these activities included conducting a multi-partner agri-environmental scan which provided an assessment of soil, water, air and biodiversity issues across the province. Agencies have also participated on the advisory committee developing the EFP workbook for Saskatchewan, served as technical advisors for PCAB, the farm plan delivery agent, for the implementation of beneficial management practices and provided technical assistance at over 690 producer workshops to develop EFPs. More than 2,770 EFPs have been completed and endorsed.
- Other incentives currently being supported by SE, SWA and SAF include the federal Greencover Land Conversion program, which affects more than 200,000 acres of land and promotes the sale of conservation easements. Conservation easements allow non-government conservation agencies and stakeholder groups to enter into agreements with landowners to protect and conserve valuable wildlife habitat. Protection of ecological values through the use of conservation easements contributes to meeting the objectives of several larger provincial conservation initiatives like the Representative Areas Network, the Prairie Conservation Action Plan, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Biodiversity Action Plan. Landowners support this approach to conservation and see CEs as a mechanism that recognizes long-term stewardship efforts while allowing the landowner to continue to manage the land. Through the 2004-2006 period, 18,000 hectares (45,000 acres) of land were protected through conservation easements.
- Often just simplifying regulatory processes and otherwise saving industry time frees up industry resources that could be used to develop "greener" technology. SE is considering the potential for streamlining the environmental assessment process in addition to legislated protection of the Great Sand Hills. This may serve as a pilot for broader application. Also, a simplified licensing and fee structure throughout the department is being proposed.

Goal Five:
Inter-jursidictional Cooperation

To cooperate with other jurisdictions (international, federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations as well as Métis people) having policy responsibility and/or program interests to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner



- One of the basic principles underlying the Biodiversity Action Plan is shared responsibility. Not only does this principle ensure commitment to the intent, it also ensures that more and varied resources are available to implement the plan. In partnership with other jurisdictions, Saskatchewan can reap the benefit of additional support and can also help direct the national conservation and sustainable resource use agendas. For example, SE sits on the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Biodiversity Working Group (F/P/TBWG) that helps to guide the joint Ministers responsible for Forests, Wildlife, Endangered Species and Fisheries and Aquaculture in assessing the future direction of the Canadian biodiversity agenda.
- Under the oversight of the F/P/TBWG, SE and SAF are also actively participating in the development and oversight of the National Invasive Alien Species Strategy, which includes sitting on the Terrestrial Plant and Aquatic Invasive Species working groups. The overall strategy received approval by Ministers in 2004. Ministers approved the associated action plans and priority actions in October 2005.
- The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) has long supported conservation initiatives in Saskatchewan. Working with its conservation partners, SWA leads the coordination and delivery of the plan through the Saskatchewan NAWMP Implementation Committee. The Committee is currently undertaking revision of the Saskatchewan NAWMP Implementation Plan, as part of the revision of the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Strategic Plan, to broaden it by incorporating target areas and habitat activities for other bird groups.
- On the sustainable resource use end, SE serves as Chair and Champion of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Municipal Wastewater Canada Wide Strategy Project and sits on Environment Canada's Technical Advisory Panel reviewing environmental effects monitoring for the metal mining and pulp and paper industries.
- SAF continues to participate in the Western Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture. This regional working group which includes representatives of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and provincial agriculture departments from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia, encourages and enables enhanced coordination of agri-environmental programming within the western Canada region. Saskatchewan is also participating on a national working group charged with developing a policy framework for ecological goods and services (EG&S). EG&S would recognize and encourage the enhancement of natural capital on agricultural lands and the many benefits these provide to the public.

- Climate change and Canada's commitments under the Kyoto Protocol have created a new area for collaboration. Saskatchewan recently signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation on climate change with the federal government. We will be working to develop policies and programs to help businesses and industries move forward on climate change.
- At a more regional level, cooperation continues with our neighbours to the west in the form of the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park partnership between Alberta and Saskatchewan. SE hosted the annual meeting between the two jurisdictions in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park in September 2004.
- Partnerships have been established at the community level to help reduce the environmental impacts of human activities. For example, cost share agreements have been signed with 38 communities to carry out Dutch elm disease control and one-time provincial funding of $700,000 became available for regional waste management authorities to enhance their recycling program capacity.
- Opportunities to more actively involve First Nations and Métis communities are being explored and developed. Consultations have been held with First Nations and others during the development of the province's green strategy. SE provided technical support for the Yellow Quill First Nation's inventory field program and work is continuing with Métis and First Nations groups, such as Mistawasis First Nation to establish new resource co-management agreements.
- Integrated land use planning processes are underway in several planning areas including Pinehouse Dipper, North Central, Athabasca, Fort a la Corne, Nisbet, Buffalo Pound, and proposed for Clearwater/La Loche. The department is also involved in ongoing implementation of completed plans such as the Pasquia Porcupine, Prince Albert Model Forest, La Ronge Corridor, Amisk-Atik, Great Sand Hills and Manitou Sand Hills. Integrated resource and land use planning processes allow government, industry, communities and local stakeholders to collect and analyse information related to renewable resource and land use and, together, to develop a range of options to resolve issues or concerns and to guide future land use and resource management or allocation decision-making processes.

Goal One: Conservation and Sustainable Use

To conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
Objective One: Biological Resources Conserve native ecosystems and manage wild species within sustainable harvest levels.					
1.1 Sustainably manage the harvest of all wild species within an ecosystem context.	SE	1.1.1 Examine the policy or legislative needs to address the harvest of wild plants	2005	• Met with University of Saskatchewan researchers, SRC, Shelterbelt Centre and SAF regarding research opportunities and potential Forest Development Fund research projects related to non-timber forest products. • A review of wild plant harvesting policy for Crown forestlands was undertaken in cooperation with SAF and SNA.	SE
		1.1.2 Complete Forest Ecosite Classification to provide a coarse level inventory of wild plants of interest for harvest in the provincial forest	2006	• Completion of pilot project for predictive ecosystem mapping based on the ecosite classification, due to be published in 2007, is planned for 2007-08.	SE
		1.1.3 Complete risk analysis for the harvest of wild plants and non-game wildlife including management recommendations and implementation of recommendations on a priority basis	2007/ 2008	• A report is being produced to identify priority non-timber forest product (NTFP) species that may be at risk due to site or species sensitivity and potential management. This will contribute to development of future NTFP direction.	SE
		1.1.4 Continue to manage the harvest of game species to minimize ecosystem impacts	On-going	• Work to develop a new provincial fisheries management strategy continued with preliminary consultations with resource users and preparation of materials for formal public consultations planned for 2006. • Limnology sampling completed for Diefenbaker and Deschambault Lakes to assess productivity and appropriate harvest levels. • Lake morphology modeling initiated as part of structured hydrography/aquatic classification. • Annual fisheries inventory and harvest assessments, fish spawn collection and stocking program and sturgeon index fishing program completed. • Annual hunting and angling strategy and licensing implemented. • White-tailed deer management strategy developed and presented to outfitting industry. • Moose and elk surveys completed in Fort a la Corne Wildlife Management Unit.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management program continued and included in National Wildlife Disease Strategy approved in October of 2005. • Waterfowl and big-game damage prevention continues.	
1.2 Work with the forest industry to adopt ecosystem-based forest management planning.	SE	1.2.1 Review Forest Management Plans on a 10-year schedule to ensure they reflect ecosystem-based forest management	On-going	• Audit results were released in 2005. SE co-ordinated actions with companies to ensure implementation of audit findings. • Plans for two more audits have begun. The companies have provided audit plans to be completed in 2006. • Both Mistik and Weyerhaeuser are in the process of requesting significant changes to their currently approved forest management approaches that will be reviewed pursuant to Section 16 of The Environmental Assessment Act. • All new forest management plans or major forest product 'developments' require an EIA through which the proponent must demonstrate the ecological integrity of their proposals.	SE
		1.2.2 Ensure that ecosystem-based forest management plans are adopted and implemented for all new major developments	On-going	• Development of the Mistik Management forest management plan (FMP) is following the draft FMP standard document.	SE
1.3 Use natural disturbance patterns in planning forest and grassland management activities to maintain ecosystem processes, functions, and structure.	SE	General		• Developing a forest fire management strategies map that explicitly identifies suppression action zones based on human values at risk and promotes the use of natural fire disturbances to play a natural role in maintaining biological integrity within the observation or natural areas of the boreal forest. Fire will have minimal negative impact on human activities in the areas where it is allowed to perform its natural function of re-vitalizing the forest. • Completed fire suppression reclamation guidelines and corresponding field manual to reduce the ecological impacts of fire suppression.	SE
		1.3.1 Establish landscape and site level provincial standards, guidelines, and targets for forest ecosystems	2005	• Drafts completed for residuals, event size, old forest, mixed wood and white spruce retention and fire salvage. • Internal departmental review was completed.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
		1.3.2 Modify standards, guidelines, and targets based on data collected through the forest ecosystem impacts monitoring program	On-going	• Re-establishment of the Science Advisory Board responsible for directing the forest industry/government program has been approved by government for a further five-year term. • 2005 monitoring data was collected and reviewed and the sampling and analysis protocols were reviewed and revised.	SE
		1.3.3 Ensure that lakes, rivers and streams and surrounding ecosystems are protected from the adverse effects of forest harvest through the establishment of appropriate no-harvest buffers reflective of the values at risk and using science as the guiding principle for forest harvesting program design	2005	• Weyerhaeuser submitted riparian monitoring data. • An audit of riparian monitoring was completed. • An audit was completed for compliance with the riparian management area standard.	SE
1.4 Conserve remaining upland and wetland native ecosystems, especially in the highly altered Prairie Ecozone.	SE/ SAF	General		• Five environmental staff members advised the department on best management practices for construction, monitored projects for regulatory compliance and promoted environmental sustainability. • DHT continues to participate in and co-chair the Saskatchewan Transportation and Environment Committee for discussion and resolution of transportation-related environmental issues. • Road Salt Management Plan 1- DHT continued to manage its winter operations by optimizing and limiting the use of road salt de-icer in order to reduce adverse affects on vegetation and fish adjacent to highways. DHT began field studies on the use of organic road de-icer compounds. • Road Salt Management Plan 2 - DHT completed the initial field reviews of a program to inventory and assess highway maintenance yards for environmental impacts (salt and petroleum spills) and for "housekeeping" issues. Prioritization of site remediation activities continues.	DHT

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• Continued to design, construct and monitor enhanced culverts and stream crossings to improve fish passage and fish habitat. • Continued to send waste creosote-treated timbers from decommissioned bridges to industrial landfills in Alberta in lieu of any SE-approved facilities in Saskatchewan.	
				• The Southern Lands Conservation Policy and regulatory amendments to The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act were recently put in place to guide the acquisition of conservation lands by conservation non-government organizations.	SE
				• SWA completed watershed plans for the Three Creeks, Upper Assiniboine and Moose Jaw River watersheds.	SWA
		1.4.1 Continue using the environmental assessment process to consider the significance of potential impacts on native ecosystems	On-going	• Continued application of the general environment assessment process. • The Transportation and Environment Committee (TEC) continues to work on improving communications with groups responsible for road construction projects. A subcommittee of TEC has developed guidelines for mitigation of impacts to wetlands and upland habitats. Another subcommittee has developed a website with an interactive questionnaire that will assist developers in understanding regulatory requirements. • Transport Canada was asked to review The Navigable Waters Protection Act, but declined. • Stream classification is ongoing. • Discussions continue with Navigable Waters Protection Programme to promote streamlining of approval processes. • Discussions continue on aquatic habitat protection permit streamlining. • See Action 7.1.1	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• An application from a petroleum and gas company to access and explore, develop or drill Crown land requires a review by SE to determine whether an environmental protection plan (EPP) is required. If an EPP is required the Environmental Assessment Branch is responsible for processing the application which includes consultation with other federal and provincial agencies. This review also involves a decision as to whether a full environment impact assessment under The Environmental Assessment Act is required. • Once SE has finalized its review, SAF Lands Branch conducts its own review to establish its own management and environmental conditions. A surface lease is issued and incorporates all SE and SAF terms and conditions.	SAF
		1.4.2 Encourage conservation and reclamation of native ecosystems on private lands by continuing to promote conservation easements, conservation cover programs and other incentives	On-going	• Continued role in the provincial Conservation Easement (CE) Working Group. • SE continues to make landowners aware of the CE option for conservation. • Conservation easements are pursued and promoted through partnerships with conservation agencies. • Since 2004, these partnerships have secured 50,950 acres of conservation lands. • SE serves as the provincial registry for CEs granted in the province.	SE
				• It is standard practice of SAF, Lands Branch, to consider the use of a conservation easement (CE) as a method of protecting native prairie prior to the sale of Crown land during the tender sale process. SAF currently holds 66 CEs on approximately 7,268 acres of Crown land. • All tender sale land is reviewed for a CE and parcels less than 40 acres are reviewed by SE and DUC who use provincial initiatives such as the Representative Areas Network (RAN) and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) as a guide for screening.	SAF

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				Other criteria include attributes such as native grassland, native aspen, endangered species areas, edge effect areas, buffer zones, wetlands and special breeding habitat (e.g. leks, nesting sites, calving grounds).	
				• Continue to implement conservation projects on private lands. • Continue production of native seed for reclamation on private lands. • Continue to refer private landowners interested in conservation easements to partner agencies.	SWA
		1.4.3 Develop a partnership framework agreement with conservation groups and land managers for an ecosystem approach to the acquisition and management of Fish and Wildlife Development Fund Lands	2004	• Partnership agreements are in place with Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada with an emphasis on the use of paid conservation easements as the most cost effective method of securing important habitat.	SE
		1.4.4 In consultation with industry, municipalities and governments commit to reviewing regulations to ensure the protection of source water from pesticide contamination including designation of buffer zones adjacent to water bodies in which no pesticides would be applied except for public health purposes such as mosquito and black fly control	2005	• A review and update of Saskatchewan's Surface Water Quality Objectives is nearing completion. Consultation on the draft guidelines was conducted during late 2005-06 and the results of that consultation are being compiled as of May 2006. The final version of the objectives will be published in fiscal 2006-07. • Storm Water Management Guidelines have been completed and are available at: http://www.se.gov.sk.ca/environment/protection/water/Binder_TofC.htm (under tab 8).	SE
				• SaskEnergy's Vegetation Management Policy protects surface water, soils, neighbouring vegetation and the land of organic growers from the threat of pesticide exposure. The policy specifies a buffer zone of 50m from the high water mark of any seasonal or permanent water body.	Sask Energy

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• Through SaskPower's Diamond Legacy Sponsorship of Ducks Unlimited Canada some resources were directed to the "Restoring Saskatchewan Wetlands-Pilot Easements Program", a program to promote small wetland restoration on private lands. A conservation easement would then protect the wetland basin in perpetuity. To date, over 50 acres have been secured with a further 15 acres in the process of being secured. • SaskPower's Vegetation Management Policy provides for an herbicide buffer zone of 30m from adjacent water bodies, exceeding current regulatory requirements.	Sask Power
Objective 2: Protected Areas Complete a system of protected areas that are representative of the province's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and ensure that they are managed to conserve biodiversity in a manner consistent with their designated level of protection.					
2.1 Continue implementation of the Representative Areas Network (RAN) to ensure adequate representation of the province's natural ecosystems.	SE	2.1.1 Protect 12 per cent of Saskatchewan's lands and waters, and as we move from the current 8.7 per cent to 12 per cent, allow flexibility to consider and accommodate new information on land values that may result in changes to the boundaries of selected areas, except in areas of unique ecological value	On-going	• Approximately 5.9 million ha or just over 9 per cent of the province has been included in the RAN program, with sites established in each of the provinces 11 ecoregions. Work continues towards achieving the 12 per cent target.	SE
		2.1.2 Finalize the boundaries and designation of RAN sites within the northern ecoregions of the province	2006	• Discussions are ongoing regarding sites within the Nisbet Integrated Forest Land Use Plan (IFLUP) and North Central IFLUP. • Discussions were initiated with the community of Patuanak and the English River First Nation regarding the RAN and potential sites.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
		2.1.3 Identify candidate sites within the Prairie Ecozone	2008	• A 36,585 ha ecological reserve was designated in the Great Sand Hills. • We continue to look for candidate sites in the Prairie Ecozone for inclusion in the RAN. • Discussions were initiated with Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF) to include Habitat Trust land in the RAN	SE
		2.1.4 Assess the RAN to determine which sites can be used as ecological benchmarks	2006	• The first draft of the Boreal Ecosystems Analysis for Conservation Networks' (BEACON) report was reviewed and revisions are underway. • Collaboration continues to ensure certain forest types currently under-represented in the RAN are captured by future site selections.	SE
		2.1.5 Develop management policies and standards that apply to all sites recognized by the RAN program	2005	Not yet completed/under development	SE
2.2 Develop and implement policies, guidelines and management plans for all protected areas.	SE	2.2.1 Establish human activity policies for all ecological reserves	2005	Not yet completed/under development	SE
		2.2.2 Develop management plans for all Ecological Reserves in the Boreal Plain and Boreal Shield Ecozones	2005	• Concept management plans were prepared to serve as initial management plans for the most recently designated sites in the Boreal Plain and Boreal Shield Ecozones.	SE
		2.2.3 Identify Provincial Parks and Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) lands having biodiversity most at risk and prepare and implement five management plans per year	On-going	• Management plans were developed for Moose Mountain Provincial Park and Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. Candle Lake, Greenwater Lake, Meadow Lake and Duck Mountain have been identified as the next parks to be assessed. • Initiation and assessment of some Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) land is scheduled to occur in the 06/07 fiscal year. Plans have been developed for approximately 1,970 acres of FWDF lands with these plans to be implemented in 2006-07.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
		2.2.4 Implement conservation action for park land that supports ecological (and cultural) integrity, including the reintroduction of natural disturbance regimes and demonstrates ecosystem-based management to the public	On-going	• Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CHIPP)-Centre Block and West Block Forest and Fire Management Plans (FFMP) are complete. Harvest and re-planting is ongoing to rejuvenate forests in CHIPP. • A Park Forest Management Trust Fund was established to receive all forest management fees paid by commercial operators allowed to harvest timber for forest management. • Moose Mountain Provincial Park (MMPP) Forest Management Plan is completed. Forest harvest for the rejuvenation of MMPP is ongoing. Rangeland assessment component of the vegetation management plan is being initiated. • Initiated a review of vegetation management option for Sandy Bay Campground within Candle Lake Provincial Park. • Douglas and Danielson Provincial Parks are undergoing integrated exotic species management through the combination of grazing, burning and biological control. Aspen stands are being rejuvenated through harvest and burning. Endangered species such as the western spiderwort and the piping plover are being monitored and managed using fencing and grazing management. • Study of impacts of the Lower Fishing Lake water control structure on fish habitats in the lake completed. • Commissioned engineering design for repairs to Candle Lake fishway. • Initiated dutch elm disease control efforts at Buffalo Pound, Echo Valley and Katepwa Lake Provincial Parks. • Initiated leafy spurge control efforts at White Butte Trails Recreation Site and Crooked Lake Provincial Park. • Continued to support cultural/historic protection at St. Victor Petroglyphs Historic Park.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
Objective 3: Partnerships for Stewardship Continue to work with non-government organizations and agencies on the stewardship of landscapes and aquatic ecosystems across the province.					
3.1 Support implementation of a renewed mandate for the Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP), recognizing that PCAP addresses biodiversity concerns in the Prairie Ecozone.	SE/ SAF	3.1.1 Participate in implementing the 2003-2008 Five Year PCAP	On-going	• Active member of the PCAP, including Native Prairie Appreciation Week activities and annual partner updates. • Participation on the planning committee for the 2007 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference. • Participate in writing oil and gas and conservation easement fact sheets. • Active partner in the PCAP's Ecological Health Assessment Project (Greencover).	SE/ SWA
				• Active member and supporter of the Prairie Conservation Action Plan. • Participation on the planning committee for the 2007 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference.	Sask Power
				• SAF actively participated on the development of the 2003-2008 Prairie Conservation Action Plan and is listed as the lead agency for a number of action items under five Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP) goals that relate to the conservation of native prairie. • SAF contributes to the PCAP partner update annually.	SAF
3.2 Work with Aboriginal leaders to develop and implement pilot projects and programs that will enhance the integration of First Nation and Métis people into the renewable resource management decision-making process.	SE	General		• Continue to support Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) consultations on a Green Strategy. • Partnership with FSIN Lands and Resources Commission to address environmental matters of concern to both agencies.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• Develop collaboration with First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan to implement habitat enhancements for waterfowl and species at risk on high priority Treaty Land Entitlement lands.	SWA
		3.2.1 Develop and implement Cumberland House Moose Management pilot program with First Nations in Saskatchewan, act on recommendations on a provincial scale	On-going	• In 2004 the Cumberland House Moose Management Committee (CDMMC) prepared a report that recommended prescribed burns be used in portions of the Cumberland Delta in order to regenerate the local ecosystem and help to rejuvenate the moose population. • In 2005, information was gathered and initial preparation of an information pamphlet occurred; the pamphlet, which will be produced in 2006, will focus on the work the CDMMC members and partners are doing to rejuvenate moose populations in the Cumberland Delta. • Big game harvest information was collected from partipating First Nation communities through the winter of 2005-06. A year end summary report will be produced in 2006.	SE
		3.2.2 Develop policy and guidelines to integrate Aboriginal traditional knowledge with science in ecosystem-based management	On-going	• Provincial Parks are engaged in ongoing discussions around traditional hunting and safety issues and provide interpreter training to band cultural staff. • Consultations have been held with First Nations and others during the development of the province's Green Strategy. • Aboriginal interests must be addressed in the development of a forest management plan. The process has been tested through the Mistik plan development, including consultation with Aboriginal communities in the Mistik planning area. • Meetings with Aboriginal communities regarding the effects of operating plan on treaty rights.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
3.3 Participate in provincial and national programs with other government and non-government agencies and work with neighbouring jurisdictions on stewardship initiatives.	SE	General		• Shand Greenhouse provided over 510,000 seedlings, many of which are native to Saskatchewan, to projects throughout the province. • The Greenhouse distributed approximately 80,000 Western Red Lilies propagated for Saskatchewan's 2005 Centennial. Over two thousand seedlings were also provided through its Native Plant Program to support conservation efforts by other agencies. • SaskPower provided funding to the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan to support the Regina Plains Nursery. The aim is to restore 2.2 million acres of disturbed land to native prairie in the Regina Plains Landscape Area, including areas in the cities of Regina, Moose Jaw and Weyburn. • SaskPower's Diamond Legacy sponsorship of Ducks Unlimited Canada also contributed to their "Saskatchewan Nest Structure" Program. With this program, DUC provides biological direction and financial assistance to offset the costs of construction, installation and maintenance of nest structures that are put up by wildlife federations, landowners and others.	Sask Power
				• SaskEnergy supports the work of Nature Saskatchewan, the Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Saskatchewan Science Centre, Climate Change Saskatchewan, Native Plant Society, Ecoquest, Prairie Conservation Action Plan, Ducks Unlimited, Saskatchewan Forestry Association and other conservation groups.	Sask Energy

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• A Saskatchewan/Alberta Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on acidic deposition management ensures that treatment of trans-boundary issues relating to acid rain is not bounded by political geography but by the sensitivities of the receiving environment. A team of senior technical officials continues to implement the MOU and develop an approach to acid deposition in the north that includes environmental modeling, airshed modeling, monitoring and a risk analysis of affected ecosystems.	SE
				• Delivery of prairie stewardship program to private landowners.	SWA
		3.3.1 Participate in the development and implementation of an expanded Canada-wide Stewardship Program that will include urban, rural, protected areas, and resource industry initiatives	On-going	• Represented Saskatchewan on the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Biodiversity Working Group that oversees the national Stewardship Agenda.	SE
Objective 4: Species and Ecosystems at Risk Protect species at risk (SAR) and prevent new species and ecosystems from becoming threatened through an ecosystem-based approach that is both responsive to the needs of provincially listed species, and that is integrated with the federal Species At Risk Act.					
4.1 Ensure adequate protection for species at risk (SAR) under The Wildlife Act and protect ecosystems inhabited by SAR.	SE	4.1.1 Prioritize species suspected of being at risk	2005	• First prioritization completed in 1992 by the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre and continues on an annual basis.	SE
		4.1.2 Review high priority species and list those deemed to be at risk under The Wildlife Act	2007	Not yet completed	
		4.1.3 Review protective status of ecosystems on which SAR depend	2006	Not yet underway	

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
4.2 Ensure that recovery plans are developed to consider the ecosystems on which the species depends. Act to protect habitat of species and ecosystems at risk.	SE	4.2.1 Complete recovery plans for high priority SAR within an ecosystem context	On-going	• Continued participation in recovery planning meetings for species occurring in Saskatchewan. • Completed draft plans for woodland caribou and shortjaw cisco. • Developing process to incorporate species plans into ecosystem recovery planning.	SE
				• SaskPower is a member of the Prairie Piping Plover Recovery Team and the South Saskatchewan River Piping Plover Conservation Plan. Through the Conservation Plan, SaskPower provided funding to Nature Saskatchewan for its Guardian Program and SWA for predator exclosure and monitoring programs at Lake Diefenbaker. SaskPower co-funded the captive rearing effort for piping plovers at Lake Diefenbaker in 2005 that was done in response to high water flows on the South Saskatchewan River. • Participated on the Lower Saskatchewan River Sturgeon Management Board. The objective of this group is to promote the conservation and recovery of lake sturgeon in the Saskatchewan River. Funds were also provided for index fishing in the Cumberland Delta. • SaskPower participated in the initial meetings organized by the federal government to look at lake sturgeon recovery. • Shand Greenhouse contributed 250 seedlings to Nature Saskatchewan in support of their "Shrubs for Shrikes" Program.	Sask Power
				• Participating in the current review of the draft document, "Recovery Strategy For Boreal Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Saskatchewan". Feedback provided on socio-economic discussion presented.	SNA

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• SWA is a member of the Prairie Piping Plover Recovery Team and the draft South Saskatchewan River Piping Plover Conservation Plan. With support from SaskPower, SWA implemented predator exclosure and monitoring programs for Piping Plovers at Lake Diefenbaker as well as an emergency captive-rearing effort. • SWA participates on the Sturgeon Management Board. • For species at risk, their habitat and ecosystems, SWA works with private landowners to implement habitat enhancement projects, assist in the development of on-farm plans and provides extension material through voluntary stewardship programs, workshops, field-tours and communications materials. • Participated in the development of Burrowing Owl, Piping Plover, Greater Sage-grouse and Lake Sturgeon recovery plans.	SWA
		4.2.2 In cooperation with land owners and managers, implement relevant protection	On-going	• Protection of species at risk is achieved through the environmental assessment process, environmental farm planning and beneficial management practices and a variety of stewardship initiatives in partnership with government and non-government conservation organizations.	SE
				• DHT continued to screen each new construction project for the presence of sensitive animal or plant species. When such species or habitats were identified along the proposed project sites, the location or timing was restricted to avoid interference with, or loss of, the species/habitat.	DHT
				• Implement species at risk habitat enhancement projects with securement for a minimum of 10 years and also improve conditions for individual landowners.	SWA

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
4.3 Enhance scientific knowledge about the distribution and abundance of species at risk, and their ecological relationships.	SE	4.3.1 Develop and test spatial models that predict the occurrence of species at risk and/or threatened plant communities	On-going	• Examining the feasibility of the Nature Conservancy of Canada approach to predictive species and habitat modeling and a land use/conservation decision support system. • A network of sample plots established across the provincial forest and predictive forest ecosite mapping may be used by others to define and assess threatened plant communities. • Continue development of site and landscape monitoring protocol for orchids as a pilot for plant species at risk monitoring needs in commercial forest and provincial parks.	SE
		4.3.2 Conduct surveys on lands suspected to contain SAR and/or threatened plant communities and areas with little data	On-going	• SaskEnergy provided support for the completion of baseline plant, amphibian, lichen and aquatic macro invertebrate surveys at Nature Saskatchewan's six nature sanctuaries across the province.	Sask Energy
				• Supported the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan in conducting rare plant workshops for members and others to collect field data on species at risk. • Weyerhaeuser's 20-year forest management plan has requirements to identify observations of species at risk. • Species at risk surveys are a component of the Great Sand Hills Regional Environmental Study.	SE
				• Conduct species at risk abundance surveys and habitat assessments in order to develop conservation site plans that identify and prioritize opportunities for habitat enhancement and securement on private lands.	SWA

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
4.4 Enhance the accessibility of information about species at risk.	SE	General		• Through a GIS-based data system, SaskPower assesses new projects for sensitive species and habitats. This allows for project-siting decisions that respect critical location and timing restrictions, so as to avoid interference or loss of the species or habitat. • A risk assessment for species at risk was completed for SaskPower's three coal-fired thermal stations.	Sask Power
		4.4.1 Develop materials that assist with the rapid field identification of SAR, particularly plants	2005	• Species at risk fact sheets are being posted on the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre website as they are developed.	SE
		4.4.2 Develop materials that describe a standard approach to SAR surveys, especially plants	2006	• Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan guidelines have been adopted as the standard for rare plant surveys and are posted on the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre website.	SE
		4.4.3 Enhance web-based access to SAR information	On-going	• Continued to update information on the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre website. • Species at risk fact sheets are being posted on the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre website as they are developed. • An initiative was begun to allow remote access to species at risk spatial data.	SE
Objective 5: Invasive Exotic Species Address the growing threat of invasive exotic species.					
		General		• Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre database data model now incorporates a system to rank, track and monitor invasive species. These fields have not been populated due to a lack of data and resources.	SE
5.1 Establish a province-wide committee to develop a provincial invasive exotic species strategy.	SE		2005	• Discussions with potential provincial invasive species working group partners.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
5.2 Develop a strategy to address the threat of invasive exotic species and carry out research and monitoring to evaluate their distribution and dispersal within the province.	SE/ SAF		2006	• Developed draft Critical Pest Emergency Preparedness Plan for the provincial forest.	SE
				• SAF continues to work with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as part of the Terrestrial Plants and Plant Pests Working Group. This Group has completed the development of Phase I & II of the Action Plan for Invasive Alien Terrestrial Plants and Plant Pests. The action plan proposes to establish a coordinated national response to minimize incursions and impacts of invasive alien plants and plant pests in Canada by strengthening and coordinating existing programs, identifying and filling gaps with new initiatives and building on the strengths and capacities of the partner organizations at the federal, provincial and local levels. • SAF is a member of the steering committee for the Brandon University's Rural Development Institute (RDI) project on leafy spurge. RDI is organizing a pan-prairie stakeholder group on leafy spurge to coordinate research and extension activities on leafy spurge across the prairies. RDI is also developing a database to track the locations of leafy spurge and biological control releases on leafy spurge. This database will be accessible by municipalities in Saskatchewan to enter and maintain records on leafy spurge populations within the municipality and receive printed maps back to use in planning. RDI has applied for funding to expand this database to include other Invasive alien plants.	SAF
				• SaskPower monitors Cookson Reservoir at the Poplar River Power Station for zebra mussels.	Sask Power

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
5.3 Identify and introduce measures to prevent the introduction of invasive exotic species, including pathogens and parasites through known pathways of introduction and natural dispersal into the province.	SE/ SAF	General		• SaskPower facilitated the development and delivery of educational activities related to zebra mussels in conjunction with other provincial and federal agencies. A poster was developed, news releases and advertising was done.	Sask Power
				• The SE/DFO angler survey includes questions on aquatic invasive species in an attempt to assess likely introduction pathways for targeted counter-measures. • Highway signs were erected at provincial borders regarding the risk of introducing mountain pine beetle into the province. • Moratorium on the importation of pine forest products from AB, BC and US. • Hosted workshop to educate transportation officers regarding pine product transport.	SE
		5.3.1 Development of import protocol and implementation for all wildlife imports	2006	• General protocols for importing game farm animals into Saskatchewan developed by SAF, in cooperation with SE, were approved August 2004. The animal health unit staff of SAF is responsible for assessing import requests.	SAF
				• SE continues to utilize the National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms to review, assess and permit imports and transfers of aquatic organisms.	SE
		5.3.2 Development of a risk assessment plan with predictive capacity for new species introduction including for agricultural and horticultural applications	2005	• Background research has begun and the plan will be further developed with the provincial working group. • Discussions begun around the feasibility of a national risk assessment process.	SE/ SAF

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• SAF is working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to influence this process as a member of the Terrestrial Plants and Plant Pests Working Group. The federal action plan proposes enhancements to Canada's capacity to effectively prevent new introductions and manage existing invasive alien species through collaboration, increased use of recognized risk assessment methodologies, integration of domestic risk management programs with international efforts to prevent further introductions and communication with national and international partners.	SAF
5.4 Identify and introduce measures to control populations of invasive exotic species existing in province.	SE/ SAF	5.4.1 Identification of priority species with cost-effective and practical eradication or reduction programs outlined	2006	• DHT reduced noxious weed infestations on highway properties by hand picking some species and by hiring registered contractors to carry out site-specific spraying programs in various locations. DHT placed topsoil on newly constructed slopes and ditches of some projects to enhance grass seed growth, thus reducing weed propagation and erosion.	DHT
				• Many agriculturally important invasive exotic/alien plants are addressed in The Noxious Weeds Act, 1984 and its associated regulations. • SAF is continuing to review The Noxious Weeds Act, 1984 and associated regulations. This review should be complete by the fall of 2006.	SAF
				• Participating in development of a National Wildlife Disease Strategy that will result in a more concerted and broadly supported effort to control wildlife diseases including chronic wasting disease.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• Dutch elm disease (DED) management included: MSc. thesis and results published from research conducted on attractant for elm bark beetles, the vector for DED; a detection program for banded elm bark beetle, also a vector for DED, resulted in no insects caught over a two year period, new DED regulations approved for implementation in 2005, 43 communities surveyed for DED, basal spraying, tree pruning and removal carried out at locations where DED was found.	
5.5 Participate in national programs and work with neighbouring jurisdictions to manage invasive exotic species within the province.	SE	5.5.1 Participate in the National Invasive Exotic Species Working Group to develop and implement a strategy to address issues of national concern	On-going	• Participated in developing a National Invasive Alien Species Strategy approved by Ministers of the Environment and an action plan for the aquatic invasive species component. • Participated in developing the draft National Wildlife Disease Strategy approved in October 2005. • Participating in a pest risk assessment led by the Canadian Forest Service.	SE
				• Member of the federal/provincial Terrestrial Plants and Plant Pests Working Group that is developing an Action Plan for Invasive Alien Terrestrial Plants and Plant Pests as a component of the National Invasive Alien Species Strategy.	SAF
Objective 6: Ecosystem-based Management Principles for Crown Lands Use an ecosystem-based approach to Crown land and resource management.					
6.1 Develop guiding principles for Crown lands and resources, which support an ecosystem-based approach to management.	SE	6.1.1 Completion and adoption of a set of guiding principles for all Crown land and resource management	2005	• Not yet completed, but see 1.3.1 for guidelines specific to provincial forestlands and 2.2 for protected areas. • Review of current method of land dispositions and sale initiated that should be completed in 2006-07.	SE

Goal Two: Ecosystem-based Management

To improve our understanding of ecosystems and increase our resource management capacity

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
Objective 7: Planning and Development Develop an ecosystem-based management approach to facilitate the integration of conservation and land use management.					
		General		• SaskPower continued to work cooperatively with DFO and other agencies to investigate the fish/fish habitat issues that may be of concern as a result of hydropeaking at E.B. Campbell Hydroelectric Station. Fieldwork begun in 2004 and continued in 2005 to support an aquatic assessment research project downstream of the power station. The results of this research will assist in understanding whether there are cost effective mitigation actions that could be taken by the facility to benefit fish/fish habitat. In 2005, the River 2-D model was calibrated for the site specific conditions based on bathymetry, habitat features and remote sensing data collected this past summer. In addition, site-specific habitat suitability curves were developed for species selected for study. Work is progressing as per schedule and will be completed in 2006. • A study was completed on the Cypress Wind Power Project and a study will be conducted on the Centennial Wind Power Project to assess the impact of these facilities on migratory birds and bats. • Discussions were initiated with provincial and federal agencies on potential fisheries issues and opportunities for improvement at SaskPower's hydro and thermal stations.	Sask Power

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
7.1 Explore how environmental assessment (EA) may be used to integrate biodiversity and development considerations at an early planning stage.	SE	7.1.1 Support a feasibility study that would explore how to incorporate biodiversity in a more strategic application of EA within landscapes or a regional context. Through the study, issues relevant to a strategic environmental assessment would be identified including, for example, a consideration of information needs, integration methods, land-use policies, funding mechanisms and consultative criteria	2009	• A review of the Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy was completed and the first year of a multi-year, multi-agency regional environmental study (RES) to help guide development of the new land use strategy has been completed. Baseline assessments are slated for completion in July/06, impact assessment, sustainability scenario development and reporting to culminate March/07. • A research project has been initiated by the University of Saskatchewan to advance understanding of biodiversity integration in regional studies and strategic environmental assessment (SEA), particularly within the Saskatchewan context. Looking to the Great Sand Hills RES and other Saskatchewan cases, this research will: i) explore the notion of biodiversity within the context of regional or SEA studies and synthesize current guidelines for best practice; ii) assess the state of practice of biodiversity in Saskatchewan focussing specifically on the nature and degree of biodiversity integration, integration methods, and tiered forward planning; and iii) identify principal challenges to, and opportunities for, integrating consideration of biodiversity in regional studies and SEA in Saskatchewan.	SE
				• Government Relations (GR) Community Planning continues to be involved with the implementation of the Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy Review by providing support to the participating municipalities to further inter-municipal cooperation and long-term land use management at the local level.	GR

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
7.2 Develop multi-stakeholder integrated land and resource use plans to guide existing and potential uses of provincial forest resources.	SE/ SAF	7.2.1 Continue to support planning for lands and waters of significant importance to multiple stakeholders, such as the North Central Land Use Plan and the Amisk-Atik Management Area	2006	• GR has worked with SE to establish the Advisory Northern Planning Commission (ANPC) necessary species at risk to implement the Lac La Ronge Integrated Land Use Management Plan (LLRILUMP). The ANPC is a development plan guiding development within the La Ronge Corridor. • Work has begun on land use controls, such as the Potato Lake Development Controls, aimed at complementing and implementing the La Ronge Integrated Land Use Management Plan.	GR
				• Land use planning continues at various stages of development and in consultation with multiple stakeholders.	SE
				• Continued to support SE land use planning processes including participation with SE, SIR, communities and resource industries on the North Central Regional Advisory Board and as a member of the Technical Support Group to develop a land use-zoning framework for the Athabasca planning process and draft land use plan for the Stage 1 Planning Area. • SE, in consultation with SIR, GR, Justice, DHT and First Nations and Métis Relations (FNMR), initiated efforts to work with the Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN) and the Northern Village of La Loche (NVLL) to develop and implement an integrated economic development and land use and renewable resource management plan for the Clearwater-La Loche area. Focus during 2004-05 was on project conceptualization and design. Intent is for CRDN, NVLL and area residents to participate in plan development and implementation.	SNA

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
		7.2.2 Completion of integrated land-use plans for the commercial forest, Crown agricultural lands and Crown resource lands	On-going	• Integrated land use plans are continuing at various stages of development for Crown lands.	SE
				• SAF and SE have developed guidelines for forest resource management on agricultural Crown lands based on the "No Net Loss" principle taking into account current extent and diversity and grazing carrying capacities. • SAF Lands Branch monitors land on an annual basis to determine ecological health. The monitoring format identifies three indicators of the ecological health of native grasslands, which includes: range condition, exotic invasion and soil damage. In the 2005 season approximately 10,000 acres, consisting of 38 different sites were inspected for the ecological monitoring program. SAF Lands Branch also monitors land when leases are renewed. Producers have the ability to enter into range improvement agreements where required. • SAF is working on the Grand Cheviot Land Use Plan (RM 470). The area consists of a large block of Crown land comprised of native prairie, parkland, rangeland, oil and gas sites and historical areas.	SE/ SAF
		7.2.3 Complete 5-year updates for existing integrated forest land use plans	On-going	• Amisk-Atik and Pasquia Porcupine IFLUs are in the implementation phase.	SE
		7.2.4 Continue participation in the Prince Albert Model Forest	On-going	• Continued involvement with the Prince Albert Model Forest at the board of directors and steering committee levels. • Continue to participate in the Prince Albert Model Forest strategic directions of planning and operations, science and technology and communications and outreach. Examples of current projects include: caribou habitat modelling, forest harvesting on shield landscapes and riparian harvesting.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
7.3 In addition to enforcing Surface Water Quality Objectives, review, with industry, environmental groups and northern communities, the regulatory system to ensure protection of water quality by basing allowable discharges into a watershed on the assimilative capacity of the watershed.	SE/ SWA		2006	• Working with SE and Manitoba to update Prairie Provinces Water Board site-specific water quality objectives at the border stations. • Undertaking directed studies on priority watersheds to build the foundation for setting site-specific water quality objectives. • Undertake the application of the Saskatchewan Water Quality Index and trend assessment at provincial primary monitoring stations.	SWA

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
Objective 8: Ecosystem Information and Management Enhance information and information management systems to support ecosystem-based management by all sectors.					
		General		• Produced a framework for the first provincial State of the Watershed Report.	SWA
8.1 Promote sharing of information by coordinating biodiversity knowledge networking activities and access to information.	SE	General		• Work has begun on a SE internet map server that will be available to the public through a self-serve internet portal. • Designated areas update project nearly complete. • Work was done to support the addition of wastewater and surface water quality data to SE Environmental Management System. • Pursued biodiversity information sharing agreements with federal agencies through the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre and NatureServe Canada. • Establishing the Virtual Data Warehouse (VDW) with the Saskatchewan Forest Centre; in-house testing underway. • Providing information to the National Forest Information System (NFIS). • Additional island forest data became available.	SE
		8.1.1 Continue to build and strengthen the Conservation Data Centre capacity for enhanced species and ecosystem information and access for the public and private sector	On-going	• Information and expertise continues to be an integral part of the environmental assessment process, species at risk and recovery planning and conservation planning.	SE
8.2 Develop and implement a standardized protocol for ecological assessments.	SE	8.2.1 Develop and implement a standard protocol to ensure that data collected as a result of the EA process can be integrated with other relevant data sets	2006	• A revised data sharing agreement is posted on the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre's Project Review site that makes data submission, by development proponents, easy and timely.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
8.3 Support ecosystem data collection and analysis.	SE	8.3.1 Model possible ecosystem changes due to climate change	2005	• Draft list of indicators of climate change produced. • Modelling of predicted vegetation zones under three different climate change scenarios has been completed and mapped. • Completed preliminary literature review relating to protected areas policies and climate change. • Participated with the Canadian Forest Service in a national assessment of the forest carbon balance to facilitate decisions under the Kyoto Protocol. • Testing of new forest carbon budget model is complete. • Saskatchewan Research Council has staff trained in the use of this model and will soon start regional analysis to facilitate the review of the SK carbon balance for the national roll-up.	SE
				• SaskPower supported Nature Saskatchewan's "Plant Watch" Program which encouraged citizens to report blooming times of several native species so that changes that might be happening as a result of climate change can be tracked. • SaskPower's Diamond Legacy sponsorship of Ducks Unlimited Canada also contributed to their "Habitat Inventory and Monitoring Project". This project will inventory priority waterfowl landscapes through aerial photography to document the occurrence, class, form, type and functional aspects. This will be linked to Ducks Unlimited Canada conservation actions and program developments allowing for better planning and prioritizing of conservation efforts. Aerial photography of the Lightning Creek sub-watershed was completed in 2005 and is currently being mapped.	Sask Power

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
8.4 Establish provincial biodiversity classification systems.	SE	8.4.1 Complete an aquatic classification system	2007	Not yet completed.	SE
		8.4.2 Complete a forest ecosystem classification system	2004	• Although progress has been slowed by staffing changes related to management of the softwood lumber issue, draft ecosites of the four ecozones have been defined and data analysis is ongoing. Publication is expected in 2007.	SE
		8.4.3 Develop a community classification system for the grassland and parkland vegetation communities	On-going	• Through a multi-partner greencover range health assessment project, SE will have access to a range classification system adaptable to grassland/parkland vegetation classification in 2006.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
Objective 9: Ecological Monitoring Establish long-term spatially appropriate monitoring programs to indicate ecosystem health in the province.					
9.1 Establish ecosystem-based monitoring approaches to measure ecosystem health.	SE	General		• SAF Lands Branch monitors land on an annual basis to determine ecological health including range condition, exotic invasion and soil erosion.	SAF
		9.1.1 Develop an integrated suite of ecosystem status indicators or indexes and report results in the Saskatchewan State of the Environment Report		• Develop a suite of watershed health indicators based on the stress-condition-response model and report results for 29 Saskatchewan watersheds in the State of the Watersheds Report.	SWA
				• Integrated Monitoring unit was established in 2004.	SE
9.2 Establish a forest monitoring group to measure forest ecosystem health jointly with the province, forest industry and scientific community.	SE	9.2.1 Continue development of indicators of forest ecosystem health and testing of sampling protocols	2005	• Data from SE and forest companies was compiled and reviewed. • Analysis protocols developed for soils data were reviewed and revised. • Analysis protocols for songbird data are under development.	SE
		9.2.2 Implementation of monitoring program by industry in Forest Management Agreements and by SE in other areas of the provincial forest	On-going	• Monitoring data collected by the forest industry for 2004 under the Forest Management Effects Monitoring Program was received and reviewed. • SE's Forest Service Branch has established approximately 40 of the 50 required terrestrial permanent ecological sampling plots.	SE
9.3 Enhance the current monitoring of water, air and soil to detect significant changes and long-term trends.	SE/ SWA	9.3.1 Monitor quality of major watersheds at least four times per year	On-going	• Water quality sampling continued at primary sites. • Sample collection began on the Churchill, Beaver and Assiniboine Rivers. • SE and SWA collected surface water quality samples at 23 primary sites in Saskatchewan.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• SWA and SE monitor the 23 primary sampling sites within the province eight times a year. • Monitoring and assessing water quality on seven priority watersheds. • Working with SE to apply the Water Quality Index (WQI) to help gauge the overall health of provincial watersheds.	SWA
		9.3.2 Monitor air quality in major cities with expansion to rural air monitoring stations	On-going	• New ambient air-monitoring site was set up in the City of Prince Albert to monitor PM2.5, ozone, Sulphur Dioxide (SO2) and Nitrogen Oxide (NOx). • In October of 2005, a new ambient air monitoring station was set up in the City of Swift Current to monitor PM2.5, ozone, SO2 and NOx. • The Southeast Saskatchewan Airshed Association (SESAA) Board of Directors was officially proclaimed in January of 2006. In 2006-07, 28 passive samplers will be set up in the southeast Saskatchewan airshed zone. • Passive monitoring was carried out in the summer of 2005 at 4 stations in NE Saskatchewan and 10 stations in NW Saskatchewan to monitor NO2, SO2 and O3 emissions originating primarily from trans-boundary sources. The results were presented in February 2006 at a national Air Quality Conference in Banff.	SE
		9.3.3 Detect contaminated sites and monitor changes and cleanup	On-going	• SaskEnergy has an ongoing program to address proper storage of hazardous substances, spill prevention measures, and site remediation issues, with the intent of maintaining or restoring all of the Corporation's operational sites to a productive and safe state.	Sask Energy

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• SE has introduced The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Act. • Preliminary reviews completed on cumulative affects monitoring program for uranium mines. • Clean-up, remediation and monitoring is ongoing as new facilities are identified and decommissioning and remedial action plans are submitted. • Acceptable decommissioning and remedial plans and financial assurances in place for one additional sodium sulphate mine (Sask. Minerals -Chaplin/Ingebright) and Sifto Salt Unity Salt Mine. • Risk based corrective actions for petroleum contaminated sites are finalized. • A detailed five-year review of the conceptual decommissioning plan for the McClean Lake Uranium Mining Operation was completed. • Financial assurance for the Premier Horticulture Ravendale Peat Bog operation is under development. • Harmonized Financial Assurance Agreement with Manitoba for the Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting Operation was signed and they will post an additional $10 million letter of credit as security for reclamation obligations. • New coal reclamation guidelines, currently under review, are scheduled for completion in 2006.	SE
				• Completed Year 1 of a program to inventory and assess the ferry sites for "good housekeeping" and environmental liabilities and to increase staff awareness. • Began a program to inventory and assess maintenance compounds for "good housekeeping" and environmental liabilities and to increase staff awareness. • Sent waste timbers containing creosote to an industrial landfill in Alberta.	DHT

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• Negotiated an agreement with the federal government to cost-share the clean-up of uranium mine/mill sites in the vicinity of Uranium City for which an owner cannot be found. • Commenced negotiations with the Saskatchewan Research Council to coordinate clean-up activities on behalf of the province. Implementation of the agreement is anticipated to commence in 2006-07.	SIR
		9.3.4 Monitor change in agricultural soil health	On-going	• Draft developed for a provincial soil management and monitoring framework utilizing a soil quality index and consultations with other departments has begun.	SE
Objective 10: Planning for Environmental Management Include biological diversity considerations in government strategic planning and decision making.					
10.1 Use an environmental management approach as a planning tool within all Crown agencies and government departments.	SE	10.1.1 Include environmental considerations into the strategic planning of all Crown corporations and departments	2006	• GR has been holding consultations toward developing Statements of Provincial Interests pursuant to The Planning and Development Act, 1983, that will require consideration of environmental management issues in all municipal planning bylaws and in subdivision review decisions. Input is being sought from all affected departments.	GR
				• SaskEnergy's annual business plans contain key strategic objectives in support of the environment under the category of "Community and Environmental Responsibility".	Sask Energy
				• Progress continues on the Green Strategy including development of a draft framework, completion of an environmental/economic scan through a contract with the University of Saskatchewan and completion of an Environmental Issues Public Opinion Survey. • Environmental considerations are explicit in SE's Operational and Performance Plans.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• SIR, in cooperation with SE and SNA through the Institutional Control Working Group has received approval for the Institutional Control Policy and is developing associated legislation and regulations to implement the policy. The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Act was passed by the Legislature in spring 2006. The policy was developed with the support of the public, industry and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. Following decommissioning and reclamation and a period of transition monitoring, former mine and mill sites located on Crown land may be returned to provincial control under the Institutional Control Registry that will maintain long-term records associated with these sites and manage the long-term monitoring and maintenance that may be required.	SIR
				• Environmental considerations were in several key actions in SNA's 2004-05 Strategic Plan. • Continue to lead the development and implementation, with partner departments/agencies, of a provincial strategy to negotiate appropriate Canada-Saskatchewan response(s) regarding clean-up and remediation of abandoned uranium mine sites. • Negotiate and administer northern mineral surface lease agreements with industry to ensure effective, efficient and co-ordinated government support for future development of the northern mineral sector, reinforcement of appropriate provincial regulatory controls and posting of financial surety for decommissioning northern mines. • Deliver communications to increase northerners' awareness of the province and the uranium industry's efforts to ensure the protection of the northern environment as uranium-mining operations are established and decommissioned. • Help to deliver reports on activities and results of SE's Uranium Mining Cumulative Effects Monitoring Program to the public.	SNA

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• Work began in 2005 to re-visit corporate strategic direction and priorities including consideration of how environment should be actively incorporated into this direction. This work is part of the 2007 Strategic Plan.	Sask Power
				• Environmental staffing was increased to advise and educate department staff on best management practices for construction, monitoring projects for regulatory compliance and for fostering environmental sustainability. • A partnership with SE was initiated to create a forum bringing together provincial and federal agencies, municipalities and road-building contractors for the discussion and resolution of transportation-related environmental issues, to create a "need to know" list for proponents and hold workshops to explain current and new acts and regulations.	DHT
		10.1.2 Following provincial forestry's lead in obtaining ISO 14001 certification in 2003, pilot an environmental management system within several government departments to reduce environmental impacts and increase operating efficiency	2009	• SaskEnergy has an environmental management system in place that captures all of the vital elements of environmental management. A decision was made several years ago not to seek ISO 14001 certification because of little compelling need at the time. Each year the Corporation broadens and improves its environmental practices in an effort to prevent adverse affects to vegetation and wildlife as a result of its business activities.	Sask Energy
				• All Business Units and Support Groups have implemented an environmental management system, which is registered as ISO 14001 compliant. This system requires the identification of species and wildlife aspects related to operations and provides an overarching mechanism for managing impacts to those aspects.	Sask Power
				• Conceptual development of a new provincial Environmental Management Model for the department is underway in preparation for consultation.	SE

Goal Three: Education and Awareness

To promote an understanding of the need to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
Objective 11: Enhanced Learning Enhance biodiversity awareness through informal and formal education.					
11.1 Enhance biodiversity messages in K to 12 curriculum including programs which provide training and continuing education for teachers and enhanced programs which provide hands-on contact with the environment.	Sask Learning/ SE		On-going	• Provided funding to the Saskatchewan Forestry Association's Focus on Forests program to deliver biodiversity messages in the K to 12 curricula and to teachers. • Continued to actively partner with the Prairie Conservation Action Plan, which delivers school programs such as "Owls and Cows" and "Eco-Extravaganza" and provides hands-on learning about prairie biodiversity for schoolteachers through the "Ag in the Classroom" program.	SE
				• SaskPower delivered, through its subsidiary Shand Greenhouse, the "Trees and Kids" program, which focuses on Grade five students. The aim of this program is to provide students with hands-on learning about their environment and issues that affect it. • Through its Diamond Legacy Sponsorship, SaskPower supported DUC's Saskatchewan Wetland Education Program. This program has reached over 7600 children and 841 adults in 857 classrooms/field trip presentations since April 2005. Since the program began in 1999/2000, SaskPower funding to DUC has helped provide learning opportunities to almost 46,000 children and 5000 adults through over 3200 classroom visits and field trips. • In partnership with the Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin, delivered the "Sturgeon in Schools" Program to 13 schools. • SaskPower provided funding to Climate Change Saskatchewan to deliver climate change education workshops to educators across the province. This involved the delivery of 12 educator workshops with a total of 163 educators attending and reaching potentially 3246	Sask Power

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				students throughout the province. Seventy-eight schools were represented with six of the seven provincial school regions holding workshops.	
				• SaskEnergy is a supporter of the Prairie Conservation Action Plan's "Eco-Extravaganza" school program.	Sask Energy
				• Conducted Project WET and Project WILD certification workshops for Education students (808 participants), including all eight Aboriginal Teacher Education Programs and classroom teachers (88 participants). • Conduct facilitator training workshops (114 participants) and field events (428 participants). • Worked with Culture, Youth and Recreation (CYR) to develop native prairie curriculum materials units to supplement the Grade 1 and 2 Core Science Curricula.	SWA
11.2 Examine opportunities to incorporate environmental stewardship messages into post-secondary training and prepare a plan of action to develop and implement curriculum changes.	Sask Learning / SE		2008	• Direct post-secondary curriculum changes not yet initiated. • Ecosystem change modelling continued with Canadian Plains Research Centre. • Both provincial universities included in a new Scientific Advisory Committee for the regional environmental study for the Great Sand Hills. • SE staff regularly works with SIAST and other post-secondary environmental programs and contribute to curriculum development when requested. • SE's Forest Service Branch provided response to a survey of professional requirements for professional foresters for the Canadian Federation of Professional Foresters Association.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
Objective 12: Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Development Facilitate training, information and technology transfer with land managers in all sectors including government, industry, and landowners.					
12.1 Develop and deliver training programs in ecosystem-based management, sustainable use methods and best practices to government, industry, landowners and other land managers	SE/ SAF		On-going	• Delivered presentation on fish stock assessment as part of fisheries management workshops. • Developed materials and helped deliver pilot workshops for the multi-partner, Greencover sponsored ecosystem/range health assessment project. • Ongoing development and delivery of park interpretive programs, including staff led programs, exhibits, signage and print materials for provincial parks. New Duck Mountain Provincial Park Interpretive Strategy drafted. • SE's Forest Service Branch drafted and presented legislation for a forestry professions association that will have competency and continuing education requirements for its membership. • Staff also regularly develop, deliver and support other agencies in ecosystem-based management training for government, industry and others. • Forest fire education program including signage and radio, television and print ads aimed at reducing fire carelessness is ongoing. Completed a public opinion poll on fire awareness to support the development of 2005-06 campaign materials. • The Transportation and Environment Committee (TEC) continues to work on improving communications with groups responsible for road construction projects. A subcommittee of TEC has developed guidelines for the mitigation of the impacts on wetlands and upland habitats. Another subcommittee has developed a website with an interactive questionnaire that will assist developers in understanding regulatory requirements.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				• SAF Lands Branch is currently developing a Co-operative Grazing Strategy for 118 grazing co-operatives on Crown land. The strategy will focus on working with the cooperatives on land management issues in order to maintain the ecological integrity of the land and to ensure sustainability of a healthy native prairie grazing resource. • In 2005, SAF Lands Branch began an inventory and reviews on a number of grazing co-ops.	SAF
				• Helped deliver two Greencover workshops for producers. • Participated on the Technical Assistance Component Review Committee and is leading and partnering on various technical transfer projects.	SWA

Goal Four: Incentives and Legislation

To develop a suite of incentives and legislation supporting the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of biological resources

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
Objective 13: Economic Instruments Develop economic instruments to support biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources.					
13.1 Assess a variety of economic incentives specifically aimed at the conservation of biodiversity and ecological function and recommend specific instruments.	SE		On-going	• SE continues to promote the sale of conservation easements. • Conservation officers continued to make local landowners aware of conservation incentive programs. • Ecological Protection staff helped to educate industry with regard to mitigation and reclamation of native prairie. • Continued to cost share conservation land securement with non-government conservation organizations using the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund.	SE
13.2 Work with the federal government, the agriculture sector, and/ or other stakeholders to implement the environmental stewardship component of the national Agricultural Policy Framework.	SAF/ SE/ SWA	13.2.1 Encourage the conversion of marginal cultivated lands to perennial vegetation cover (grasses, legumes, trees, shrubs) to enhance or protect important upland and riparian habitat areas	2005	• Provided comments and guidance during development of the criteria for the federal Greencover Land Conversion Program. • Provided technical advice and supported development and implementation of best management practices that convert or restore marginal lands to perennial native cover.	SE
				• The land conversion component of the Greencover Program has provided financial incentives for Saskatchewan landowners to convert marginal cultivated lands to perennial cover. More than 2,000 conversion projects have been approved involving more than 200,000 acres. Of the funding approved for the Greencover land conversion component across Canada, over half of the acres converted were in Saskatchewan.	SAF
				• Serve as technical advisors on delivery of the Greencover Program. • Work with Agriculture and Agri-food Canada to coordinate referrals of landowners interested in cropland conversion to Greencover or SWA programs based on agricultural suitability criteria.	SWA

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
		13.2.2 Complete a provincial environmental scan to identify priority issues and regions requiring corrective action	2005	• The preliminary Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Scan has been completed. The scan provides an assessment of agri-environmental issues for soil, water, air and biodiversity across the province. The scan will be updated and refined as better data becomes available. Printed copies of the scan summary are available from Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food. The scan summary can also be accessed from the following website: http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/docs/about_us/apf/environment.asp	SAF
				• Participated in provincial environmental scans for water and biodiversity.	SWA
		13.2.3 The implementation of a voluntary Environmental Farm Plan Program with widespread participation in the completion of individual and group environmental plans	2008	• Saskatchewan's Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program was launched in early 2005 and is being delivered by the Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards for Saskatchewan Inc. (PCAB). PCAB developed an EFP workbook and has hired 20 workshop facilitators across the province. As of March 31, 2006 there have been 370 of the first EFP workshops (involving over 5,700 farm units) plus 317 of the second EFP workshops (3,588 farm units). PCAB has also established a peer review process for completed EFP action plans and 2,778 EFPs have been endorsed. PCAB is in the process of hiring six Farm Stewardship Advisors who will work with producers having completed farm plans and assist them in the adoption of beneficial management practices. • Saskatchewan is leading other provinces in initiating Agri-Environmental Group Planning (AEGP). AEGP enables a group of producers to strategically work together to target a priority issue in their area, or facing their commodity group. A pilot AEGP project was approved in the Lower Souris Watershed in early 2005.	SAF

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
				Following this pilot, an additional eight watershed group planning projects and three commodity-based AEGP projects were approved with funding totaling $1.85 Million.	
		13.2.4 Begin implementation of environmental farm plans through the adoption of environmentally beneficial practices	2005	• Reviewed biodiversity/wildlife related beneficial management practices for the environmental farm planning process. • Sit on the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee. • Provide technical advice and support development and implementation of beneficial management practices that convert or restore marginal lands to perennial native cover.	SE
				• Participated on the advisory committee developing the EFP workbook for Saskatchewan and serve as technical advisors for PCAB. • Serve as technical advisors for beneficial management practices. • Participated on the subcommittee developing terms of reference for Agri-Environmental Group Planning. • Provided technical assistance at 25 producer workshops to develop EFPs. • Leading development of a pilot group plan in the Lower Souris Watershed.	SWA
				• Once producers' environmental farm plans are peer reviewed and endorsed by PCAB, they become eligible for cost-shared funding under the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) on their farm operations. As of March 15, 2006, 730 BMP projects have been approved for a total funding of over $2.5 million.	SAF

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
Objective 14: Policy and Legislation Review Review policy and legislation with respect to biodiversity and sustainable use of biological resources in light of threats to biodiversity including climate change.					
14.1 The Saskatchewan Government will ensure that environmental issues are considered when departments conduct a review of existing policy and legislation and in the development of new government policy and legislation.	SE/ Executive Council		On-going	• GR is reviewing The Planning and Development Act, 1983, with the aim of creating a new Act. An Interdepartmental Advisory Committee has been struck to ensure governmental agencies have input into this process. Environmental issues are addressed in this forum. In addition, the department is developing statements of provincial interest pursuant to the Act. These statements will contain an environmental component designed to guide development within the mandate of The Planning and Development Act, 1983.	GR
				• Progress continues on the Green Strategy including the development of a draft framework, completion of an Environmental/Economic Scan through a contract with the University of Saskatchewan, completion of an Environmental Issues Public Opinion Survey and six public forums held across the province. • Legislative reform plan will be developed upon approval of the Green Strategy. • Consideration is being given to the potential for streamlining the environmental assessment process in conjunction with development of legislation for the further protection of the Great Sand Hills. • A simplified licensing and fee structure is being proposed for the department. • Coordination of timing of legislative reform and streamlining initiatives into the SE legislative agenda.	SE
				• SWA is developing a new drainage and wetland conservation policy in collaboration with SAF and SE, incorporating extensive stakeholder input.	SWA

Goal Five: Inter-jurisdictional Cooperation

To cooperate with other jurisdictions (international, federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations as well as Metis people) having policy responsibility and/ or program interests to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
Objective 15: Shared Responsibility Support opportunities to work with other jurisdictions to contribute to biodiversity conservation and use biological resources in a sustainable manner.					
15.1 To identify opportunities and mechanisms for the provincial government to encourage and support rural, urban and northern municipalities, First Nations and Métis people to enhance biodiversity conservation locally.	SE	General		• Part of the formal consultation process for the Green Strategy included six public forums held across the province. People were also asked to submit their ideas about what should be in the Green Strategy directly to the department. The information gathered during this process will be used to develop the final document, which is expected to be released in fall 2006.	SE
		15.1.1 Work with other jurisdictions within the province to decrease environmental impacts from human activities including restoration projects, reduction of pesticide use, and encourage native species for landscaping	2006	• Cost share agreements signed with 38 communities to carry out Dutch elm disease (DED) control and new DED regulations approved and ready for implementation in 2005 • Completed technical support for Yellow Quill First Nations inventory field program. • MeeToos and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation participated in MeeToos feasibility study, which was completed, but negotiations did not yield economic output. • Continuing to work with First Nations and Métis groups including establishing new resource co-management agreements, e.g., Mistawasis First Nation.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
		15.1.2 Continue to expand programs for recycling within communities and industry	On-going	• Information pertaining to provincial recycling programs (i.e., the Beverage Container Collection and Recycling Program, the Milk Container Recycling Program, the Pesticide Container Collection Program, the Scrap Tire Management Program and the Used Oil Materials Recycling Program) is regularly disseminated to the public based upon specific individual requests or inquiries. • Provincial funding of $700,000 was provided to regional waste management authorities to enhance their recycling programs capacity. • Clean Cat Road Show Environmental Education Program conducted. • Paint recycling program approved and announced to begin in 2005-06 following discussions with stakeholders. • Electronics recycling program approved and announced to begin in 2005-06 following discussions with stakeholders.	SE
15.2 Continue to participate in national programs and work with adjacent jurisdictions to support provincial efforts to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner.	SE/ SAF/ SIR	General		• Serve as Chair of the Municipal Wastewater Canada Wide Strategy Project under development. • Sit on Environment Canada's Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) reviewing environmental effects monitoring for the metal mining and pulp and paper industries. • Lead in developing the CCME /Municipal Wastewater Effluent harmonization project as part of the National Strategy. • Working with Environment Canada to develop a Memorandum of Understanding on Competitiveness and Environmental Sustainability.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
		15.1.2 Continue to expand programs for recycling within communities and industry	On-going	• Information pertaining to provincial recycling programs (i.e., the Beverage Container Collection and Recycling Program, the Milk Container Recycling Program, the Pesticide Container Collection Program, the Scrap Tire Management Program and the Used Oil Materials Recycling Program) is regularly disseminated to the public based upon specific individual requests or inquiries. • In fiscal year 2005-06 there was one-time provincial funding of $700,000 provided to regional waste management authorities to enhance their recycling programs capacity. • Paint recycling program approved for implementation in early 2006-07. • Electronics recycling program approved and is expected to be implemented in the last half of fiscal year 2006-07.	SE
15.2 Continue to participate in national programs and work with adjacent jurisdictions to support provincial efforts to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner including:	SE/ SAFRR / SIR	General		• Serving as Chair and Champion of the Municipal Wastewater Canada Wide Strategy Project under development. • Sit on Environment Canada's Technical Advisory Panel reviewing environmental effects monitoring for the metal mining and pulp and paper industries. • Leading the development of the CCME municipal wastewater effluent harmonization project as part of the national strategy. • Working with Environment Canada to develop a Memorandum of Understanding on Competitiveness and Environmental Sustainability.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
		15.2.1 Contribute to the Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial Biodiversity Working Group initiatives including Invasive Alien Species, Stewardship, Science and Information, and Status and Trends Reporting	On-going	• Participating in the Federal/Provincial/ Territorial Biodiversity Working Group (F/P/TBWG). • F/P/TBWG developed positions to assist joint ministers in assessing the future direction of the Canadian biodiversity agenda. • Participate in the Leadership and Coordination Oversight Committee of the National Invasive Alien Species Strategy. • Participate directly on the Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group. • Terrestrial plant and aquatic species action plans and priority actions were developed and approved by resource ministers in August 2005. • SE participates in development of the national Chronic Wasting Disease Management Strategy as a pilot for implementation of the National Wildlife Disease Strategy.	SE
				• SAF continues to participate as a member of the Terrestrial Plants and Plant Pests Working Group that includes members from the federal, provincial and territorial governments. This working group has developed an action plan with a goal to address the increasing threat of invasive plants and plant pests in Canada.	SAF
		15.2.2 Continue to participate in the North American Bird Conservation Initiatives including: North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plan, North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan	On-going	• Leading the coordination of delivery of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) in Saskatchewan through the Saskatchewan NAWMP Implementation Committee. As part of the revision of the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Strategic Plan, the committee is currently undertaking revision of the Saskatchewan NAWMP Implementation Plan to incorporate target areas and habitat activities for other bird groups as they are identified.	SWA

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
		15.2.3 Review and provide Saskatchewan's position to national initiatives to manage climate change and genetically modified organisms	On-going	• A Canada-Saskatchewan Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SE, SIR and the federal government towards cooperation on climate change. • Participated in management of Climate Change Saskatchewan. • Prepared communications and education materials on OEC's Green Buildings, vehicle idling and the Kyoto Protocol.	SE
				• In 2005, SAF made several formal appeals to the federal government requesting that farmers be treated fairly with respect to carbon sequestered in soil sinks. • SAF is actively monitoring, participating and leading in research that will reduce the major greenhouse gas emissions (methane and nitrous oxide) from the agricultural sector through more efficient use of fertilizer, better management of livestock manure and increased efficiency of livestock feeds. SAF is also responsible for transferring technological and research information to producers in an effort to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.	SAF
		15.2.4 Continue as a partner of Interprovincial Parks (Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park)	On-going	• The Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park partnership between Alberta and Saskatchewan continues.	SE
		15.2.5 Participate in the implementation of the National Forest Strategy on Sustainable Forests	On-going	• SE's Forest Service Branch annually reviews the Canada Forest Accord and National Forest Strategy and assesses progress in implementing these documents.	SE

Objectives	Lead/ Co-Lead	Sub-Action	Timeline	Progress on Actions 04-06	Reporting Agency
		15.2.6 Participate in the Western Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture	On-going	• Saskatchewan is continuing to participate in this regional working group that includes representatives of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and provincial departments of agriculture from Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia. These discussions allow enhanced coordination of agri-environmental programming within the western Canada region. • Saskatchewan participates in the national coordination of the existing Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) environment chapter programs. The National Agri-Environmental Coordinating Committee (NAECC) also oversees the development of agri-environmental programming to follow APF that ends in March 2008. • Saskatchewan is participating on a national working group charged with developing a policy framework for ecological goods and services (EG&S). EG&S would recognize and encourage the enhancement of natural capital on agricultural lands and the many benefits these provide to the public. An EG&S pilot research program will proceed in Manitoba in 2006.	SAF

Glossary of Terms

Aboriginal Peoples - includes the Indian (First Nation), Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada, as per section 35(2) of the Canadian Constitution Act, 1982

Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge - refers to the knowledge that Aboriginal peoples have accumulated over countless generations of intimate contact with all aspects of local ecosystems including plants, animals and other natural phenomena

Adaptive Management - an approach to making management decisions about complex and unpredictable systems, including ecosystems, which emphasizes conscious experimentation and continuous learning from the experience

Aquatic - pertaining to or living near water

Biodiversity (Biological Diversity) - includes all species of plants, animals and microorganisms and the ecosystems and ecological processes of which they are part

Carbon Sequestrian - carbon removed from the atmosphere and fixed in living or dead organic material

Ecologically Sustainable Use - human use that ensures the capacity for ecosystems to renew themselves, ensuring continued availability for future generations

Ecosystem - an interdependent system consisting of all the living organisms in a given area, all the physical and chemical factors of their environment and the processes that link them

Ecosystem Integrity - a condition where the function and structure (including genetic, species and ecosystem diversity) of an ecosystem are not impaired by human-induced stresses

Ecosystem-based Management or Ecosystem Approach - the integrated management of ecological systems and human activities to maintain or enhance the health and integrity of an ecosystem, including ecosystem function and structure

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) "Wildlife Lands" - lands purchased for conservation purposes using funds derived from a portion of all Saskatchewan hunting, trapping and angling licences

Invasive Exotic Species - species that are non-native or alien to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health

Local Knowledge - refers to the historical and practical knowledge of the land and related natural resources accumulated by those who live close to the land, such as farmers and ranchers

Natural Capital - natural stocks that yield the flows of natural resources and services without which there can be no economic production (may be marketed or non-marketed)

Natural Disturbance Regime - the range, frequency and intensity of natural disturbances in an ecosystem and landscape context

Prince Albert Model Forest (PAMF) - a non-profit partnership of forest users committed to the sustainability of Saskatchewan's forests through research, education and the equitable sharing of forest resources. It is supported by direct funding from the Canadian Forest Service and by partner contributions. PAMF is a member of Canada's Model Forest Network and one of a growing number of model forests throughout the world

Stewardship - the individual and corporate responsibility of one generation to maintain the natural inheritance that it has received, both for its benefit and for the benefit of future generations

Terrestrial - pertaining to or living on the land

Watershed - a discrete geographic area within which all water would drain to a single outlet

Wetland - an area of low-lying land, submerged or inundated periodically by fresh or saline water

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